

S O M E
Remarkable Passages
 O U T O F T H E
EXCELLENT LETTER
 O F
Mijn Heer F A G A L,

In the Name of their HIGHNESSES
The PRINCE and PRINCESS of O R A N G E.

I Must then first of all assure you very positively, That their *Highnesses* have often declared, as they did it more particularly to the Marquis *Abbeville*, His Majesties Envoy Extraordinary to the States, that it is their Opinion, That ~~no~~ *Christian* ought to be persecuted for his Conscience; or be ill used, because he differs from the Publick and Established Religion: and therefore they can consent that the *Papists* in *England, Scotland, and Ireland*. be suffered to continue in their Religion, with as much liberty as is allowed them by the States in these Provinces.

And their *Highnesses* are very ready, in case His Majesty shall think fit to desire it, to declare their willingness to concur in the settling and confirming this Liberty, and as far as it lies in them, they will protect and defend it, and according to the Language of Treaties, They will confirm it with their *Guaranty*, of which you made mention in yours.

And if His Majesty shall think fit *further to desire their concurrence in the repealing of the Penal Laws, they are ready to give it*; provided alwayes that those Laws remain still in their full vigor, by which the R. Catholicks are shut out of both Houses of Parliament, and out of all Publick Employments, Ecclesiastical, Civil, and Military.

You writ, That the *Roman Catholicks* in these Provinces *are not shut out from Employments and Places of Trust*; but in this you are much mistaken, for our Laws are expresse, excluding them by name from all share in the Government, and from all Employments either of the Policy or Justice of our Countrey. It is true, I do not know of any expresse Law, that shuts them out of *Military Employments*, that had indeed *been hard*, since in the first formation of our State, *they joyned with us in defending our Publick Liberty, and did us eminent service during the Wars*; therefore they were not shut out from those Military Employments; for the Publick Safety was *no way endangered by this*, both because their numbers that served in our Troops were not great, and because the States could easily prevent any inconvenience that might arise out of that; which could not have been done so easily, if the R. Catholicks had been admitted to a share in the Government, and in the Policy or Justice of our State.

I am very certain of this, of which I could give very good proof, that there is nothing that their *Highnesses* desire so much, as *That His Majesty may Reign happily*, and in an intire Confidence with his Subjects; and that his Subjects being perwarded of His Majesties fatherly affection to them, may be ready to make him all the *Returns of Duty* that are in their power.

Their *Highnesses* have ever paid a most profound Duty to His Majesty, *which they will alwayes continue to do; for they consider themselves bound to it, both by the Laws of God and of Nature*.

I do not think it necessary to demonstrate to you *how much their Highnesses are devoted to His Majesty*, of which they have given such real Evidences as are beyond all verbal ones; and they are resolved still to continue in the same Duty and Affection: or rather to increase it, if that is possible.

Nov. 4. 1687.

S I R, Yours, &c.

Memorandum, That these singular Expressions of Affection and Duty to the King their Father, were sent after those irregular and offensive measures of Quo Warranting Charters, the Dispensing Power, Clofetting, the Ecclesiastical Commission, and Magdalen Colledge, were practised; and comparing this with several Expressions in his Highness his Declaration, and both with His Majesties Reasons why he withdrew himself from Rochester, may it not become us as Members of the Church of England, and Subjects of the King of England, to desire him to return to us upon the Terms of the Ancient Constitution of our Government; and if those be too large, upon such Terms, as will make us safe; and may not our neglecting to do it, upon a supposition of a Demise, because he withdrew himself, which he charges upon a Constraint, become a lasting Reproach upon these Kingdoms, and through our means, a like dishonour to the Prince and Princess.